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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/656,106	09/06/2000	Masaya Wajima	36856.345	9145

7590 05/16/2002
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EXAMINER

GONZALEZ, JULIO C

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2834

DATE MAILED: 05/16/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/656,106

Applicant(s)

WAJIMA ET AL.

Examiner

Julio C. Gonzalez

Art Unit

2834

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 21 February 2002.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-21 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-21 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 06 September 2000 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

1. The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Therefore, the recess provided on the first and second case as disclosed in claims 11 and 12 must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s). No new matter should be entered.

A proposed drawing correction or corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

2. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

3. Claims 1-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

In claim 1, the claim discloses an electronic component having electrodes and being included in the body. How is the electronic component "included" in the body? From the claim, it would seem like if the electronic component is inside the

body or anywhere near the body. Also, is the body having an upper surface, a lower surface the same as the "said body of chip electronic component"? Or is the claim referring to the electronic component or is this a different body of chip electronic component? Does claim 1 refers to two different devices, the body and the electronic component? Or is there a third device, the chip electronic component? Or is the body the same device as the electronic component?

In claim 13, what is meant by the conductive bond been inside of an outer periphery of the chip component? How can the conductive bond be inside and yet on an outer surface?

Claim 1 discloses having external electrodes extending over the lower surface and on the side surface of the body? Which body? From the figure 7, it seems like if the electrode 19 is extending on the side surface but not on the bottom surface.

The other bottom surface electrodes are 18 and 19. Is the same electrode extending from the side surface, also extending to the lower surface?

In claim 9, what is meant by the second case been laminated on the upper surface?

What is the second case been laminated with?

In order to advance prosecution in the merits, the Prior Art will be applied as best understood by the examiner.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 1, 2, 6-12, 14-18, 20 and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gamo in view of Kuroda et al.

Gamo discloses a body having an upper surface, a lower surface and a pair of side surfaces, electrodes 12e extending on a side surface and lower surface electrodes having a narrow portion 3b and wide portion 5b(see figure 9). Also, a pair of cases with recess 7, 9 surrounds the piezoelectric resonant (see figure 1). However, Gamo does not disclose explicitly that the same electrode on the side surface extends on the lower surface.

On the other hand, Kuroda et al discloses for the purpose of obtaining precise adjustment of frequency, an electrode 57 extending on the side and lower surface of a body (see figure 7B).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to design a chip electronic component as disclosed by Gamo and to modify the invention by having an electrode extend over the lower

and side surface of a body for the purpose of obtaining precise adjustment of frequency as disclosed by Kuroda et al.

6. Claims 3-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gamo and Kuroda et al as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Danov.

The combined electronic component discloses all of the limitations above. However, the combined electronic component does not disclose that an electrode can be of a particular shape.

On the other hand, Danov discloses for the purpose of stabilizing output voltage under varying loading conditions that an electrode can have a rectangular, triangular and circular shape (see figure 1). Moreover, it seems like a matter of design choice to make the electrodes circular or triangular, since applicant has not disclosed that the specific shape solves any stated problem or is for any particular purpose and it appears that the invention would perform equally well with a rectangular shape electrode.

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to design the combined chip electronic component as disclosed above and to modify the invention by using a specific shape electrode for

the purpose of stabilizing output voltage under varying loading conditions as disclosed by Danov.

7. Claims 13 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gamo and Kuroda et al as applied to claims 1 and 14 above, and further in view of Okeshi et al.

The combined electronic component discloses all of the limitations above. However, the combined electronic component does not disclose using a conductive bond.

On the other hand, Okeshi et al discloses for the purpose of avoiding short circuit in electrodes, a conductive paste 24, 25 is inside the electronic component 1 (see figures 1, 5).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to design the combined chip electronic component as disclosed above and to modify the invention by using a conductive bond for the purpose of avoiding short circuit in electrodes as disclosed by Okeshi et al.

Response to Arguments

8. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-21 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

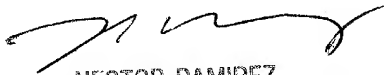
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Julio C. Gonzalez whose telephone number is (703) 305-1563. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (8AM-5PM).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Nestor Ramirez can be reached on (703) 308-1371. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 308-7722 for regular communications and (703) 305-1341 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0956.

Jcg

May 13, 2002


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